



Communications Board
Fire and Emergency Medical Services
Monroe County, New York

Maggie Brooks
County Executive

Laurence Vaughan
Chairman

MINUTES OF MEETING: May 19, 2005

VOTING MEMBERS: Dick Barrett, Jay Coates, Jack DeLisio, Scott Lancaster, Steve McClary, John Merklinger, Diana Pfersick, Dave Timmons, Larry Vaughan, Tim Warth and Rick Zwaga

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: Tom Link, Mike Lissow, Ed Mager, Larry Mancine, Dave Pierce, Ed Riley, Rich Verdouw and Hank Wehner

OTHERS ATTENDING: Steve Leuchtner (Henrietta Ambulance) and Mark Porter (Monroe Ambulance)

EXCUSED: Patty Bietry, Steve Bowman, Tom Coyle, Tim Czapranski, and Brian Peartree

ABSENT: None

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Larry Vaughan at 5:00 p.m.

A quorum of voting members was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by John Merklinger to approve the March minutes, seconded by Rick Zwaga.
Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Larry Vaughan introduced 2 guests at our meeting, Steve Leuchtner from Henrietta Ambulance and Mark Porter from Monroe Ambulance.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reframing Committee – John Merklinger reported he will be trying to find prior paperwork on renaming all of the local frequencies. It is believed that work was done in late 2002 or early 2003.

Digital Paging Committee – Rich Verdouw reported that as of today, a total of 2,464 pagers have been ordered. He asked that battalion reps continue to encourage departments to place orders as soon as possible.

Communications Rules & Regulations Committee – Diana Pfersick reported things are moving along. Diana and Hank Wehner should be submitting a draft soon for board review.

OLD BUSINESS

Before continuing the meeting, Chairman Vaughan asked the Board to change the normal order of business, which was approved by those in attendance. Chairman Vaughan then opened discussion on the proposed narrowband changeover deadline with a statement of facts involved. Each battalion was polled to get an idea where their respective agencies stand for having their base, mobile and portable radios narrow band capable by that date. With the exception of the 1st, each battalion had at least one agency that probably would not be ready - most were mobiles and portables but there was one agency that will not be able to convert their base station this year. Rural-Metro, Monroe Ambulance and the City of Rochester were also polled and they all should be able to be capable of going narrow band. PSC Director Verdouw gave an overview on both the needed communications system upgrades as well as the new digital paging system. With the need for five additional tower sites and the need to modify two current sites, he is stretched pretty thin, with time running out. Director Verdouw stated, as he has before, he would like a SIX MONTH trouble free run period for the new digital, after it has gone on line. There was also discussion on the inability of the agencies to have the new NB tone/voice pagers in place for the 1/1/06 date. The reason most would not have purchased the new pagers was financial. Most felt that an additional budget year would assist agencies desiring to use tone/voice pagers in lieu of going digital as their primary alerting means. The chairman stated, that we knew that the 1/1/06 date was "ambitious". He also mentioned that there were THREE items that needed to be in place: the county needed all transmitters and receivers to be narrow band capable, each agency needed their base, mobile and portable equipment to be narrow band capable, and the new digital paging system needed to be up and running to support the agencies who elect to use digital for their primary alerting. With the discussion overwhelmingly leaning towards an extension, and with no further discussion, the chairman asked the pleasure of the board. Motion by Vice-Chairman Barrett to move the narrow band transition date from 1/1/06 to September 2006. Seconded by Chief DeLisio. The vote was 11 for - 0 against – with 0 abstentions. **Motion carried unanimously.**

BATTALION REPORTS

Battalion 1 – No report.

Battalion 2 – (See attached report from Deputy Chief Larry Vaughan).

Battalion 3 – Chief Jack DeLisio reported there has been an increasing number of dispatching errors. John Merklinger said he would look into this and get back to Chief DeLisio with his findings.

Battalion 4 – Scott Lancaster reported their battalion is meeting tonight (5/19) and will report back to us at our next meeting.

Battalion 5 – No report.

911 DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Merklinger reported the following. They will be replacing their 911 phone switch with a new digital phone switch in September. They will be replacing the back up 911 telephones this summer. They will be adding CAD to their back up at Cobbs Hill. They are closely watching VOIP telephone service. They have been working with the vendors on this important topic. They are working with Time Warner in an effort to print a brochure and perhaps get them to send out the brochure. They discussed several pieces of proposed legislation at the state and federal level that could impact 911 Centers. So far none have passed. They discussed the recent FCC decision to impose a 120 time period for VOIP providers to provide 911 telephone service. The 120 order has not yet been issued.

ANYTHING FOR THE GOOD OF THE BOARD

Battalion Chief Steve McClary distributed to the board a handout on the ETIN (Educational Training and Information Network) (see attachment).

EMS Coordinator Tim Czapranski asked Fire Coordinator Ed Riley that a handout on color codes be included with these meeting minutes (see attachment). Ed also informed us Tim Czapranski will work with local hospitals on “Hospital 340” narrowbanding.

A motion to adjourn was then made by Tim Warth, seconded by Diana Pfersick.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Fire/EMS Communications Board is scheduled for Thursday June 16th, 2005, 5:00 pm, at the Public Safety Training Facility in the STEP Conference Room.

Larry Mancine, Secretary
Fire/EMS Communications Board